
POPULATION DZISK

MOOSE

Concern

No recent information on moose numbers and movements

Between one-third and one-quarter of the traditional territory has been surveyed for moose at least once. There are approximately 5,500 to 5,600 moose in all and their status varies in different regions of the traditional territory. The region of greatest harvest pressure has not been surveyed since 1986. Traditional information indicates that there are fewer moose now in the Nisutlin Delta than there were in the past.

Solution Get better information on moose numbers and their movements

Moose surveys need to be updated, particularly for areas where harvest pressures are greatest because of access by the Alaska Highway, South Canol Road and Nisutlin and Teslin rivers. We also need to understand where moose spend the rest of the year before they are harvested so that there is a better connection between harvest numbers and population estimates. Given the high cost of radio-collaring, this kind of information is available only from local/traditional knowledge.

Actions

Responsible parties, Time line

YG, TTC, RRC
2001/02

Refine moose management units for this traditional territory

Management units for the traditional territory are not legal divisions but are regions within the traditional territory that help with management. For Teslin, the most helpful divisions would be based on the community's knowledge about hunting patterns and access. Census and local/traditional knowledge work could be focussed on the areas where moose harvesting is concentrated. Once created, these units are not cast in stone, but, as information on them is gathered, it will become harder to make new divisions in the future. This means that we must consider as much information as possible before establishing the boundaries of the units. [2001-Tes-AI-1]

YG, RRC
2002/03

Survey moose in the harvested area and inform the community*

The harvested area, which is the area between Teslin Lake and the Nisutlin River and up the South Canol Road, is the area of greatest hunting activity because of ease of access. It was selected for a moose population estimate to make sure that harvesting there was not excessive. The survey will cost approximately \$20,000. [2001-Tes-AI-2]

*Survey might get pushed back; try for now to keep it in 2002/03.

TTC, RRC
2001/02

Get local/traditional information on moose movements

Each Yukon community is unique in how it approaches traditional and local knowledge. The most productive projects are those which combine both knowledge sources with a clear understanding about information sharing and uses. A moose workshop in Haines Junction was coordinated by the First Nation but involved both elders and seniors. As well, maps were set up at the First Nation office and visiting elders were asked to contribute their information. The maps were kept by the First Nation but were accessible to the regional Yukon government biologist. Any publication of this information requires the consent of both the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation (CAFN) and the Yukon government. [2001-Tes-AI-3]